

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 ACDA-12 HA-05 OMB-01 SSO-00 ARA-10 EA-10
EUR-12 NEA-10 CA-01 AID-05 EB-08 /147 W
-----037234 181703Z /14

R 171750Z MAR 78
FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0091
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN NEW YORK 00957

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PBOR, SREF, OAU, UNSC, ET, SO
SUBJECT: THE HORN: CONVERSATION WITH SOMALIAN UN
AMBASSADOR

1. AMB LEONARD MET MARCH 16 WITH SOMALIAN AMB HUSSEN AT LATTER'S REQUEST. HUSSEN INQUIRED WHAT US ATTITUDE TOWARD UN SECURITY COUNCIL CONSIDERATION OF HORN ISSUE WAS NOW IN LIGHT OF ETHIOPIA'S HOSTILE ATTITUDE TOWARD IDEA OF OBSERVERS IN OGADEN. LEONARD NOTED THAT MOST AFRICANS, INCLUDING ESPECIALLY NIGERIA, HAD DISCOURAGED MOVE TO SC UNTIL OAU EFFORTS WERE EXHAUSTED, ALTHOUGH WE HAD ALWAYS BELIEVED THAT SC ACTION WOULD BE SUPPORTIVE OF OAU. UNFORTUNATELY IT NOW APPEARED MEETINGS SCHEDULED FOR LAGOS MIGHT BE FURTHER DELAYED.

2. HUSSEN REITERATED SOMALI BELIEF THAT SOVIETS/CUBANS WOULD NOT LEAVE ETHIOPIA AND WOULD NOW TURN ATTENTIONS TO ERITREA. LEONARD NOTED US ATTITUDE ON THIS HAD BEEN MADE VERY CLEAR TO SOVIETS. HUSSEN AGAIN EXPRESSED PARTICULAR CONCERN OVER HOW ETHIOPIANS WOULD TREAT OGADENI POPULA-
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TION AND SAID REPORT MARCH 15 INDICATED ETHIOPIANS WERE DESTROYING ALL VILLAGES AND INSTALLATIONS IN ORDER TO FORCE PEOPLE TO LEAVE. HE CLAIMED THERE WERE ALREADY 150,000 TO 200,000 REFUGEES IN SOMALIA. WE WOULD DEPLORE SUCH ACTION, LEONARD SAID, AND SUGGESTED SOMALIA ENCOURAGE PRESS TO VISIT BORDER AREAS IN ORDER TO SEE SITUATION FIRST-HAND. HE ALSO NOTED HELPFULNESS OF ICRC AND UNHCR

IN THIS CONNECTION.

3. PRESIDENT CARTER'S PRESS CONFERENCE REMARKS HAD CAUSED CONCERN IN SOMALIA, HUSSEN SAID, SINCE CARTER SEEMED TO MAKE MILITARY AND ECONOMIC AID TO SOMALIA CONDITIONAL ON RENUNCIATION OF ANY TERRITORIAL CLAIMS TO KENYA AND OGADEN. LEONARD EXPLAINED PURELY HUMANITARIAN AID WOULD NOT BE LINKED BUT POINTED OUT DIFFICULTY WE FACED IN PROVIDING MILITARY AID IF WE HAD NO ASSURANCE WEAPONS WOULD NOT BE USED IN MANNER WE COULD NOT SUPPORT. HE SUGGESTED THIS WAS ONE OF QUESTIONS THAT SPECIAL EMISSARY MOOSE (ABOUT WHOM HUSSEN ALREADY INFORMED) WOULD WISH TO GO INTO IN DEPTH DURING HIS VISIT TO MOGADISCIO.

4. AT CONCLUSION OF DISCUSSION LEONARD SUGGESTED THAT HUSSEN KEEP US INFORMED OF SENTIMENT WITHIN AFRICAN GROUP ON POSSIBLE SC CONSIDERATION OF HORN. YOUNG

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